(b) if so, the actual position in this regard; and

(c) whether worthiness of these rail lines is checked before their laying?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The released rails from busy lines are segregated into second hand serviceable rails *i.e.* rails still having balance life and scrap rails. The released serviceable rails are scanned ultrasonically before using them for renewal on lighter traffic routes.

AIR travel by senior railway officers

709. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior officers of the railways/Railway Board are travelling mostly by air on sectors which are easily connected by fast trains;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) how many senior officers have travelled by air during the last six months and the expenditure incurred on the air travel of each of them; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue directives to all the senior Railway Officers, restricting their travel mainly to rail travel and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Economic growth of Railways

710. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to stop the sluggish economic growth of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;